

## *Calandrinia* Kunth

*Calandrinia ciliata* (Ruiz & Pavón) DC, RED MAIDS, FRINGED RED MAIDS. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, 1–several-stemmed, prostrate to ascending, sometimes appearing matlike, in range 1.2–20 cm tall, flowering shoots radiating to 45 cm from base; shoots fleshy with 2–4 basal leaves, cauline leaves, and leaflike bracts (bractlets), mostly glabrous but with some coarse, papillate hairs. **Stems** (inflorescence axes):  $\pm$  winged, to 3 mm diameter, with 3 descending wings from each leaf and bractlet. **Leaves**: helically alternate, simple, petiolate (basal leaves) and sessile (cauline leaves and bracts), without stipules; petiole flared and flattened at base and hemicylindric above becoming narrowly winged grading into blade, 1.3–4.5 mm long, at base crescent-shaped in  $\times$ -section, grooved on upper side, on convex lower side with midvein darker green and not raised or only slightly so at base; blade narrowly oblanceolate, (10–)24–70+  $\times$  1.5–5 mm (basal leaves) and 16–26  $\times$  1.5–3.1 mm (cauline leaves and bracts), tapered or long-tapered at base, entire and sometimes with coarse papillate hairs on margins, acute and sometimes reddish at tip, venation obscure. **Inflorescence**: elongate, leafy, racemelike cyme, terminal, mostly spreading and 6–7-flowered, bracteate; bract at fork (on opposite side of pedicel) leaflike, narrowly oblanceolate to narrowly oblong, 3–19.5  $\times$  0.8–3.3 mm, entire but with coarse papillate hairs; pedicel 11–21 mm long increasing to 25 mm long in fruit, 0.7–1.2 mm diameter at base, green,  $\pm$  triangular, quadrangular, or semicircular in  $\times$ -section, 2-angled or 2-winged, with tip flared and compressed, ca. 1  $\times$  2.5 mm, and  $\pm$  fusiform in  $\times$ -section, 2-ridged, with 0–4 coarse hairs on each ridge. **Flower**: bisexual, radial, 13–18 mm across, bright reddish purple; **sepals** 2(–3), ovate, 5–6.5  $\times$  3–4.2 mm, fleshy, green, keeled, entire and whitish membranous on margins, acuminate with margins fused and compressed side-to-side at tip, obscurely 3-veined, glabrous except for 2–11 papillate hairs along keel, not strongly angular in fruit; **corolla** 5(7)-lobed, fused only at base; tube 0.2–0.7 mm long; lobes obovate to narrowly fan-shaped, in range 6.8–8  $\times$  3.8–5.9 mm, bright reddish purple to light purple but paler to whitish or light yellowish on tapered base, entire, 2-lobed to shallowly notched or truncate at tip, often with forked pseudoparallel veins showing as darker nectar lines; **stamens** in range 6–13(–15), fused at base to adjacent filaments and to nectary disc, variously positioned; filaments 2.8–3.4 mm long, whitish or pale green to light green at flared base and  $\pm$  translucent and fleshy above; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, oblong, 1.2–1.4  $\times$  0.7–0.8 mm, vivid to strong yellow, becoming arrow-shaped and tending to twist after dehiscence, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen vivid to strong yellow; **nectary disc** at base of corolla, 0.1–0.3 mm tall, greenish; **pistil** 1(–2), 3.5–4.5 mm long; ovary superior, ovoid, 1.8–2  $\times$  1.1 mm, green, glabrous, 1-chambered with 15–22 ovules attached to base; style 2.5–3.5, colorless, 3-branched, the branches stigmatic, narrowly lanceolate, 0.7–0.9 mm long, papillate and thicker on margins. **Fruit**: capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent by 3 valves splitting to midpoint from tip downward, 10–20-seeded, ovoid,  $\pm$  same length as persistent calyx and before dehiscence exerted no more than 2.5 mm, after dehiscence with valves reflexed with inrolled margins and persistent; with seeds borne on long funiculi from base; corolla often remaining as veiny cover on fruit tip. **Seed**:  $\pm$  ellipsoid and lenticular with very short raphe beak, in range 1–1.4 mm long, glossy red-black, finely netlike (at 30 $\times$ , reticulate with fine punctae); without a fleshy strophiole covering the hilum. Late January–late May.

Native. Annual occurring in sunny, often grassy locations throughout the range and where established often in relatively dense populations. If not familiar with subtleties of calyx shape and flower color, *Calandrinia ciliata* is somewhat difficult to distinguish from *C. breweri*, which grows in similar habitats. Specialists require the observer to examine seeds at high magnification to see shallow pits and a netlike design (reticulate) for *C. ciliata*, and also that its capsule is not exerted at least three millimeters from the sepals; thus without fruits identification is deemed unreliable.

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